

FIRST MAN REACH IN CARRERA CONVICT PRISON, THURSDAY/6/FEB/2020—WITH NALIS OUR TEAM MANAGER.

Ray much thanks for sharing the photos, which your long association doing outreach work allows you to take and share, with the required precautions for security concerns, at this event, “DE OFF SHORE CALYPSO TENT.”

Having started sharing Ray's Baton, last Tuesday and Thursday of January this year, I share the beauty of fully understanding, how our Independence Heritage, has so poignantly recognised the inadequacy of the support and training for our citizens, outside of Prison walls, in many cases. This has introduced the Penal system developed here, patterned on past experience and in constant development.

The Carrera Convict Prison, introduced an Annual Inmates Calypso Competition 32 years ago and yesterday was their 33rd hosting of said competition, to which I was invited as a Consultant with our National Library System here, aka. NALIS, one of the Safe Spaces for men and women to come and grow mentally, in peace and safely.

Other developmental practices and procedures include: -

1. A Library System to encourage reading and further Learning.
2. Sports like Cricket, Football and Basketball.
3. Trade Skill Development in tailoring, barbering, cooking, agriculture, woodwork, welding and in a few, conducting art shops.

Most importantly, is the staff hired to take charge and care of the inmates on a daily basis, sometimes being the only such care, attention and expert guidance, some of these inmates had on the outside.

This new understanding, coming from field research, in the prison environment, makes one realise that, the Penal System, is in fact a Gated Community, with strict conditions attached to inmate's freedom of movement, unlike the Gated Communities on the outside.

It also permits people like Ray Brathwaite, Pastors, Educators and me with specialist practised based philosophical experience/research, over a number of years, to enter and add value to what is already being shared by the Penal System.

Comments have been made on the visit to the Youth Training Centre, YTC and the Maximum Security Prison, MSP, at a Cloud Archive, https://www.archive.org/details/2020prisoninmateengagement_202002 .

Today I am adding first observations on the Carrera Convict Prison. FIRSTLY, I saw the powerful artist expressions, with different media and styles, done by a group of artists, wearing proudly, their T-Shirts titled “Carrera Island Studio” and coordinated and assisted by Supt. Gordon, a committed Prison Officer to the Motto REFORMED, REFINED. The photo of me and Ray standing in front of one of the pieces, valued at \$8,000.00, is a joy to see. All of their artwork is for sale and at very reasonable prices. So much so, that the Managers opening the Red House recently purchased a masterpiece for only \$10,000 dollars, which in my humble was worth \$50,000.00.

SECONDLY, was the pristine food and vegetables, grown organically by the inmates with that love for gardening, coordinated by another committed Prison Officer to the Motto REFORMED, REFINED, one ASP Hayden Murray. So convinced was I by the standard of Pepper Sauce produced and packaged in-house, that I purchased a bottle of the delicious Scorpion Sauce, since my home made one was running low. The other food and delicacies were consumed on site, to my tremendous delight.

LAST, but not least was the musical in-house talent supporting the intelligent and creative Calypsonians, vying for the attractive prizes offered, with the assistance of many regular sponsors. Needless to say the Guest Artistes, Benji Garlin, The Patriot, Prophet Benjamin and the Prison Officer MC, gave my \$5,000.00 owed entrance fee, a true blessing. The Point Fortin co Mc held her ground like a true Lioness and has a bright future in entertainment.

I am so eagerly looking forward to greater interaction. donaldberment@gmail.com. Photos on Facebook and Cloud.

Signed.....Donald Donat Berment, Secretary/Director IMDTT.--383-6184, 637-0924